

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-78, 150-154, 157-161, 164-168, 171, 172, 174-178, 181-185, 188, 189, 191-195, 198-202, 205, 206, 208-212 and 215-219 are pending. Claims 79-149, 222-226, 229-233, 236-240, 243, 244, 246-250, 253-257, 260, 261, 263-267, 270-274, 277, 278, 280-284 and 287-291 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 7, 12, 13, 28, 45-78, 150, 188, 189, 191-195, 198-202, 205, 206, 208-121 and 215-219 have been amended.

Claims 7 and 150, the only independent claims, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yoshioka et al. and Sekiguchi et al. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 79, while claim 150 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 222. In view of these amendments, the independent claims are believed clearly to be in condition for allowance. The amendments to the other claims are simply to correct idiomatic English.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Application No.: 09/551,799

Docket No.: M1909.0130/P130

(PATENT)

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Dated: July 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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